

**CHARLIE BAKER**  
*Governor*



**KARYN POLITO**  
*Lt. Governor*

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## **Governor Baker Nominates Omar Hernández for Reappointment as an Administrative Judge on the Industrial Accident Board**

**BOSTON** – Today, Governor Charlie Baker nominated Omar Hernández for a reappointment to the position of Administrative Judge on the Industrial Accident Board at the Department of Industrial Accidents (DIA). Judge Hernández served as an Administrative Judge for eight years from 2003 until 2011 and has served as the Senior Judge at the DIA from 2011 until now. If confirmed, his reappointment term will expire in December of 2023.

“With nearly three decades of experience representing both public and private businesses and employees across the Commonwealth, Senior Judge Hernández has shown a deep commitment to protecting individuals and families affected by work-related injuries,” **said Governor Baker**. “Pending approval by the Governor’s Council, Senior Judge Hernández will continue to be an asset to the Department of Industrial Accidents.”

“Senior Judge Hernández has a proven track record of serving injured workers and employers in Massachusetts, and his role in launching the Opioid Alternative Treatment Pathway is a testament to that work,” **said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito**. “If confirmed by the Governor’s Council, I am confident that he will continue to serve workers in Massachusetts.”

The Department of Industrial Accidents (DIA) oversees the Massachusetts workers’ compensation system, serving injured workers, employers, attorneys, and insurers.

The Industrial Accident Board consists of 21 administrative judges who preside over disputed workers' compensation cases. For more information about the Division of Industrial Accidents, please visit their [homepage](#).

Judicial nominations are subject to the advice and consent of the Governor's Council. Applicants for judicial openings are reviewed by the Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC) and recommended to the governor. Governor Baker established the JNC in February, 2015 pursuant to Executive Order 558, a non-partisan, non-political Commission composed of volunteers from a cross-section of the Commonwealth's diverse population to screen judicial applications. Twenty-one members were later appointed to the JNC in April, 2015.

#### **About Senior Judge Hernández**

Since 2011, Omar Hernández has served as the Senior Judge at the Department of Industrial Accidents (DIA), where he is responsible for the Division of Dispute Resolution. Prior to his role as Senior Judge, he served as an Administrative Judge at the DIA for over 8 years, where he was the first Hispanic-American nominated to that position. Senior Judge Hernández has played an integral role in launching the Opioid Alternative Treatment Pathway (OATP) at the DIA, a two-year pilot program that equips attorneys, judges and injured workers with quicker access to medical experts in order to make treatment decisions involving work-related injuries. Before joining the DIA, Senior Judge Hernández was Deputy General Counsel for the Massachusetts Human Resources Division. He has been practicing workers' compensation law in the Greater Boston Area since 1990 and is a founding board member for Kids' Chance of Massachusetts, an organization that supports children whose lives have been impacted by their parent's work-related injury. He has been a featured speaker at several national opioid conferences as well as New England area workers' compensation insurance panels. Senior Judge Hernández earned his Juris Doctorate from Suffolk Law School and graduated with his Bachelor's Degree from Cornell University. He currently resides in Chelmsford, MA with his family.

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